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10/817,183	04/05/2004	David Morley Clark	C583 0002/GNM	2741

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2166	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/817,183	CLARK ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Navneet K. Ahluwalia	2166	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *11 April 2007*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *3-21 and 23-38* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *3-21 and 23-38* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   The application has been examined. Claims 3 – 21 and 23 – 38 are pending in

this office action.

Response to Arguments

2.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 3 – 21 and 23 – 38 have been

considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4.   Claims 3 – 21 and 23 – 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Birrell et al. ('Birrell' herein after) (US 6,029,164) further in view of

Kephart et al. ('Kephart' herein after) (US 2001/0042087 A1).

With respect to claim 3,

        Birrell discloses a method for automatically organizing electronic messages in a

computer system, the method comprising:

-       obtaining an electronic message having a plurality of properties (Figure 2 and

        column 2 lines 6 – 8, Birrell);

- automatically identifying a plurality of folders with which the electronic message is to be associated by applying rules to the properties of the electronic message (column 6 lines45 – 64, column 7 lines 35 – 52 and column 8 lines 36 – 45, Birrell); and

- automatically generating a plurality of shortcuts to the message, each of the shortcuts comprising an element directly or indirectly identifying the message and an element directly or indirectly identifying one of the plurality of folders (column 7 lines 28 – 52, column 8 lines 36 – 45 and lines 53 – 65, Birrell);

- storing the shortcuts as records in a database, wherein at least one of the properties comprises a date and the rules include a rule which identifies one folder with which the message is to be associated based upon a comparison of the property's date to a current date (column 7 lines 35 – 52, Birrell).

Birrell does not disclose the shortcuts explicitly as claimed.

However, Kephart teaches the shortcuts to message or folder in paragraphs 43 and 48, Kephart.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of cited references because both inventions are directed towards organizing electronic documents (electronic messages) and furthermore, the shortcuts being used and clearly defined in the Kephart's method enhances the usability for a user (paragraphs 22 – 24, Kephart).

5.   Claims 4 and 19 – 20 are rejected under the same rationale as claim 3. The

citations for their limitations are disclosed below.

With respect to claim 4,

Birrell as modified discloses a method according to claim 3 comprising

periodically and automatically generating new shortcuts, each of the new shortcuts

associating the message to a folder based upon a comparison of the property's date to

a current date (column 7 lines 35 – 52, Birrell and paragraphs 43 and 48, Kephart).

With respect to claim 19,

Birrell as modified discloses a method according to claim 3 wherein the shortcuts

comprise entries in a Shortcut table having a primary key comprising a plurality of

ordered fields (column 7 lines 35 – 52, Birrell and paragraphs 43 and 48, Kephart).

With respect to claim 20,

Birrell as modified discloses a method according to claim 19 wherein the primary

key comprises MessageId + AttachId + FolderId, where AttachId is a field containing a

value which associate the shortcut with an attachment to a message (paragraph 48,

Kephart).

With respect to claim 5,

Birrell discloses a method for automatically organizing electronic messages in a computer system, the method comprising:

- obtaining an electronic message having a plurality of properties (Figure 2 and column 2 lines 6 – 8, Birrell);

- automatically identifying a plurality of folders with which the electronic message is to be associated by applying rules to the properties of the electronic message (column 6 lines45 – 64, column 7 lines 35 – 52 and column 8 lines 36 – 45, Birrell); and

- automatically generating a plurality of shortcuts to the message each of the shortcuts comprising an element directly or indirectly identifying the message and an element directly or indirectly identifying one of the plurality of folders (column 7 lines 28 – 52, column 8 lines 36.– 45 and lines 53 – 65, Birrell),

- storing the shortcuts as records in a database wherein the data store holds a plurality of messages and the method comprises receiving from a user folder selection information identifying a selected one of the plurality of folders, retrieving from the database a plurality of shortcuts associated with the selected folder, each of the shortcuts associated with a different one of the plurality of messages, and displaying a representation of the retrieved shortcuts on a display (column 7 lines 35 – 52, Birrell).

Birrell does not disclose the shortcuts explicitly as claimed.

However, Kephart teaches the shortcuts to message or folder in paragraphs 43 and 48, Kephart.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of cited references because both inventions are directed towards organizing electronic documents (electronic messages) and furthermore, the shortcuts being used and clearly defined in the Kephart's method enhances the usability for a user (paragraphs 22 – 24, Kephart).

6.   Claims 6, 7 11 – 13 and 27 – 29 are rejected under the same rationale as claim 5. The citations for their limitations are disclosed below.

With respect to claim 6,

Birrell as modified discloses a method according to claim 5 wherein each of the shortcuts comprises a SortKey value and retrieving from the database a plurality of shortcuts comprises retrieving the plurality of shortcuts in order of SortKey values of the retrieved shortcuts (column 7 lines 45 – 52, Birrell).

With respect to claim 7,

Birrell as modified discloses a method according to claim 6 wherein retrieving each of the plurality of groups from the database comprises sequentially retrieving shortcuts associated with the selected folder from the database in order of the SortKey value until either:

- a last shortcut associated with the selected folder has been retrieved from the database (column 7 lines 45 – 52, Birrell);

- at least a predetermined number of shortcuts has been retrieved from the

database in a current group and the SortKey value for a most recently

retrieved shortcut is different from the SortKey value for a second-most-

recently retrieved shortcut (column 11 lines 4 – 18, Birrell).

With respect to claim 11,

Birrell as modified discloses a method according to claim 5 wherein the record in

the database has a length of 64 Bytes or less (column 8 lines 11 – 19, Birrell).

With respect to claim 12,

Birrell as modified discloses a method according to claim 5 wherein the record in

the database has a length of 32 Bytes or less (column 8 lines 11 – 19, Birrell).

With respect to claim 13,

Birrell as modified discloses a method according to claim 5 wherein the record in

the database has a length of 24 Bytes or less (column 8 lines 11 – 19, Birrell).

With respect to claim 27,

Birrell as modified discloses a method according to claim 5 comprising identifying

a status of the message and automatically creating a shortcut to the message in a folder

corresponding to the status of the message (column 13 lines 11 – 58, Birrell and

paragraph 60, Kephart).

With respect to claim 28,

Birrell as modified discloses a method according to claim 27 wherein the status of the message is selected from the group consisting of two or more of: a status that indicates the message is deleted, a status that indicates that the message is active, a status that indicates that the message is a draft, a status that indicates that the message is to be kept, a status that indicates that the message has been received, a status that indicates that the message has been sent, a status that indicates that the message has been tagged by a user, a status that indicates that the message has been flagged by a user for follow up, a status that indicates that the message is unread and a status that indicates that the message is waiting to be sent (column 13 lines 11 – 58, Birrell and paragraph 60, Kephart).

With respect to claim 29,

Birrell as modified discloses a method according to claim 28 wherein the computer system maintains two or more of: an active mail folder for messages having a status that indicates the messages are active, a kept mail folder for messages having a status that indicates that the messages are to be kept, a tagged mail folder for messages having a status that indicates that the messages have been tagged by a user, a todo folder for messages having a status that indicates that the messages have been flagged by a user for follow up, and an unread folder for messages having a status that indicates that the messages are unread (paragraphs 61 – 65, Kephart).

With respect to claim 8,

Birrell discloses a method for automatically organizing electronic messages in a computer system, the method comprising:

- obtaining an electronic message having a plurality of properties (Figure 2 and column 2 lines 6 – 8, Birrell);

- automatically identifying a plurality of folders with which the electronic message, is to be associated by applying rules to the properties of the electronic message (column 6 lines45 – 64, column 7 lines 35 – 52 and column 8 lines 36 – 45, Birrell) and

- automatically generating a plurality of shortcuts to the message, each of the shortcuts comprising an element directly or indirectly identifying the message and an element directly or indirectly identifying one of the plurality of folders (column 7 lines 28 – 52, column 8 lines 36 – 45 and lines 53 – 65, Birrell);

- wherein the folders comprise a plurality of date folders each associated with a different period, the method comprising automatically generating a shortcut to the message in each of the plurality of date folders for which the time associated with the message is between the beginning and the end of the folder's period (column 7 lines 35 – 52, Birrell).

Birrell does not disclose the shortcuts explicitly as claimed.

However, Kephart teaches the shortcuts to message or folder in paragraphs 43 and 48, Kephart.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of cited references because both inventions are directed towards organizing electronic documents (electronic messages) and furthermore, the shortcuts being used and clearly defined in the Kephart's method enhances the usability for a user (paragraphs 22 – 24, Kephart).

7.   Claims 9, 10 and 14 – 18 are rejected under the same rationale as claim 8. The citations for their limitations are disclosed below.

With respect to claim 9,

Birrell as modified discloses a method according to claim 8 wherein the date folders comprise a Today folder for which the period is a current day, a This Week folder for which the period is a current week, a Yesterday folder for which the period is an immediately previous day and a Last Week folder for which the period is an immediately previous week (column 7 lines 64 – 67 and column 8 lines 1 – 10, Birrell).

With respect to claim 10,

Birrell discloses a method for automatically organizing electronic messages in a computer system, the method comprising:

- obtaining an electronic message having a plurality of properties (Figure 2 and column 2 lines 6 – 8, Birrell);

- automatically identifying a plurality of folders with which the electronic

  message is to be associated by applying rules to the properties of the

  electronic message (column 6 lines45 – 64, column 7 lines 35 – 52 and

  column 8 lines 36 – 45, Birrell); and

- automatically generating a plurality of shortcuts to the message, each of the

  shortcuts comprising an element directly or indirectly identifying the message

  and an element directly or indirectly identifying one of the plurality of folders

  (column 7 lines 28 – 52, column 8 lines 36 – 45 and lines 53 – 65, Birrell);

- wherein the properties include a time and the method comprises identifying a

  period corresponding to the time associated with the message and creating a

  date folder associated with the identified period (column 7 lines 35 – 52,

  Birrell).

Birrell does not disclose the shortcuts explicitly as claimed.

However, Kephart teaches the shortcuts to message or folder in paragraphs 43

and 48, Kephart.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing at

the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of cited references because

both inventions are directed towards organizing electronic documents (electronic

messages) and furthermore, the shortcuts being used and clearly defined in the

Kephart's method enhances the usability for a user (paragraphs 22 – 24, Kephart).

With respect to claim 14,

Birrell discloses a method for automatically organizing electronic messages in a computer system, the method comprising:

- obtaining an electronic message having a plurality of properties (Figure 2 and column 2 lines 6 – 8, Birrell);

- automatically identifying a plurality of folders with which the electronic message is to be associated by applying rules to the properties of the electronic message (column 6 lines45 – 64, column 7 lines 35 – 52 and column 8 lines 36 – 45, Birrell); and

- automatically generating a plurality of shortcuts to the message, each of the shortcuts comprising an element directly or indirectly identifying the message and an element directly or indirectly identifying one of the plurality folders (column 7 lines 28 – 52, column 8 lines 36 – 45 and lines 53 – 65, Birrell);

- wherein the message has an attachment and the shortcut additionally comprises an AttachId value identifying the attachment (column 7 lines 35 – 52, Birrell).

Birrell does not disclose the shortcuts explicitly as claimed.

However, Kephart teaches the shortcuts to message or folder in paragraphs 43 and 48, Kephart.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of cited references because

both inventions are directed towards organizing electronic documents (electronic

messages) and furthermore, the shortcuts being used and clearly defined in the

Kephart's method enhances the usability for a user (paragraphs 22 – 24, Kephart).

8.   Claims 15 – 18 are rejected under the same rationale as claim 14. The citations

for their limitations are disclosed below.

With respect to claim 15,

        Birrell as modified discloses a method according to claim 14 wherein the

attachment is stored in a data store and the AttachId value is an address of the

attachment in the data store (column 7 lines 35 – 52, Birrell and paragraphs 43 and 48,

Kephart).

With respect to claim 16,

        Birrell as modified discloses a method according to claim 14 wherein the

attachment is stored in a data store and the AttachId value identifies a corresponding

AttachmentSummary record in the database, wherein the AttachmentSummary record

contains an address for the attachment in the data store (column 7 lines 35 – 52, Birrell

and paragraphs 43 and 48, Kephart).

With respect to claim 17,

Birrell as modified discloses a method according to claim 14 comprising

identifying a type of the attachment and automatically creating a shortcut to the

message in a folder corresponding to the type of attachment (paragraph 48, Kephart).

With respect to claim 18,

Birrell as modified discloses a method according to claim 17 comprising

automatically creating the folder corresponding to the type of attachment (paragraph 48,

Kephart).

With respect to claim 21,

Birrell discloses a method for automatically organizing electronic messages in a

computer system, the method comprising

- obtaining an electronic message having a plurality of properties (Figure 2 and

  column 2 lines 6 – 8, Birrell);

- automatically identifying a plurality of folders with which the electronic

  message is to be associated by applying rules to the properties of the

  electronic message (column 6 lines 45 – 64, column 7 lines 35 – 52 and

  column 8 lines 36 – 45, Birrell); and

- automatically generating a plurality of shortcuts to the message, each of the

  shortcuts comprising an element directly or indirectly identifying the message

  and an element directly or indirectly identifying one of the plurality of folders

  (column 7 lines 28 – 52, column 8 lines 36 – 45 and lines 53 – 65, Birrell);

- comprising, for a plurality of messages, identifying one or more addresses

associated with the message and creating a shortcut to the message in a

folder associated with each of the addresses (column 7 lines 35 – 52, Birrell).

Birrell does not disclose the shortcuts explicitly as claimed.

However, Kephart teaches the shortcuts to message or folder in paragraphs 43

and 48, Kephart.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing at

the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of cited references because

both inventions are directed towards organizing electronic documents (electronic

messages) and furthermore, the shortcuts being used and clearly defined in the

Kephart's method enhances the usability for a user (paragraphs 22 – 24, Kephart).

9.   Claim 38 is rejected under the same rationale as claim 21. The citation for its

limitations are disclosed below.

With respect to claim 38,

Birrell as modified discloses a method according to claim 21 wherein the method

comprises storing the shortcuts as records in a database (column 7 lines 45 – 52,

Birrell).

With respect to claim 23,

Birrell discloses a method for automatically organizing electronic messages in a computer system, the method comprising:

- obtaining an electronic message having a plurality of properties (Figure 2 and column 2 lines 6 – 8, Birrell);

- automatically identifying a plurality of folders with which the electronic message is to be associated by applying rules to the properties of the electronic message (column 6 lines45 – 64, column 7 lines 35 – 52 and column 8 lines 36 – 45, Birrell); and

- automatically generating a plurality of shortcuts to the message, each of the shortcuts comprising an element directly or indirectly identifying the message and an element directly or indirectly identifying one of the plurality of folders (column 7 lines 28 – 52, column 8 lines 36 – 45 and lines 53 – 65, Birrell); comprising creating the shortcuts at least in folders associated with each of: a time associated with the message; a sender of the message; and a type of attachment associated with the message (column 7 lines 35 – 52, Birrell).

Birrell does not disclose the shortcuts explicitly as claimed.

However, Kephart teaches the shortcuts to message or folder in paragraphs 43 and 48, Kephart.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of cited references because both inventions are directed towards organizing electronic documents (electronic

messages) and furthermore, the shortcuts being used and clearly defined in the

Kephart's method enhances the usability for a user (paragraphs 22 – 24, Kephart).

10.   Claims 24 – 26 are rejected under the same rationale as claim 23. The citations

for their limitations are disclosed below.

With respect to claim 24,

        Birrell as modified discloses a method according to claim 23 comprising

identifying a status of the message and automatically creating a shortcut to the

message in a folder corresponding to the status of the message (column 13 lines 11 –

58, Birrell and paragraph 60, Kephart).

With respect to claim 25,

        Birrell as modified discloses a method according to claim 24 wherein the status

of the message is selected from the group consisting of two or more of: a status that

indicates the message is deleted, a status that indicates that the message is active, a

status that indicates that the message is a draft, a status that indicates that the

message is to be kept, a status that indicates that the message has been received, a

status that indicates that the message has been sent, a status that indicates that the

message has been tagged by a user, a status that indicates that the message has been

flagged by a user for follow up, a status that indicates that the message is unread, and a

status that indicates that the message is waiting to be sent (column 13 lines 11 – 58,

Birrell and paragraph 60, Kephart).

With respect to claim 26,

Birrell as modified discloses a method according to claim 24 wherein the

computer system maintains two or more of: an active mail folder for messages having a

status that indicates the messages are active, a kept mail folder for messages having a

status that indicates that the messages are to be kept, a tagged mail folder for

messages having a status that indicates that the messages have been tagged by a

user, a todo folder for messages having a status that indicates that the messages have

been flagged by a user for follow up, and, an unread folder for messages having a

status that indicates that the messages are unread (paragraphs 61 – 65, Kephart).

With respect to claim 30,

Birrell discloses a method for automatically organizing electronic messages in a

computer system, the method comprising:

- obtaining an electronic message having a plurality of properties (Figure 2 and

  column 2 lines 6 – 8, Birrell);

- automatically identifying a plurality of folders with which the electronic

  message is to be associated by applying rules to the properties of the

  electronic message (column 6 lines45 – 64, column 7 lines 35 – 52 and

  column 8 lines 36 – 45, Birrell); and,

- automatically generating a plurality of shortcuts to the message, each of the

  shortcuts comprising an element directly or indirectly identifying the message

  and an element directly or indirectly identifying one of the plurality of folders

  (column 7 lines 28 – 52, column 8 lines 36 – 45 and lines 53 – 65, Birrell);

- storing the shortcuts as records in a database wherein the folders comprise a

  plurality of date folders each associated with a different period, the method

  comprising automatically generating a shortcut to the message in each of the

  plurality of date folders for which the time associated with the message is

  between the beginning and the end of the folder's period (column 7 lines 35 –

  52, Birrell).

Birrell does not disclose the shortcuts explicitly as claimed.

However, Kephart teaches the shortcuts to message or folder in paragraphs 43

and 48, Kephart.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing at

the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of cited references because

both inventions are directed towards organizing electronic documents (electronic

messages) and furthermore, the shortcuts being used and clearly defined in the

Kephart's method enhances the usability for a user (paragraphs 22 – 24, Kephart).

11.   Claim 31 is rejected under the same rationale as claim 30. The citations for their

limitations are disclosed below.

With respect to claim 31,

Birrell as modified discloses a method according to claim 30 wherein the date

folders comprise a Today folder for which the period is a current day, a This Week

folder for which the period is a current week, a Yesterday folder for which the period is

an immediately previous day a Last Week folder for which the period is an immediately

previous week and a Month folder for which the period is a current month (column 7

lines 64 – 67 and column 8 lines 1 – 10, Birrell).

With respect to claim 32,

Birrell discloses a method for automatically organizing electronic messages in a

computer system, the method comprising:

- obtaining an electronic message having a plurality of properties (Figure 2 and

    column 2 lines 6 – 8, Birrell);

- automatically identifying a plurality of folders with which the electronic

    message is to be associated by applying rules to the properties of the

    electronic message (column 6 lines45 – 64, column 7 lines 35 – 52 and

    column 8 lines 36 – 45, Birrell); and

- automatically generating a plurality of shortcuts to the message each of the

    shortcuts comprising an element directly or indirectly identifying the message

    and an element directly or indirectly identifying one of the plurality of folders

    (column 7 lines 28 – 52, column 8 lines 36 – 45 and lines 53 – 65, Birrell);

- wherein the message has an attachment and the method comprises

    identifying a type of the attachment and automatically creating a shortcut to

    the message in a folder corresponding to the type of the attachment (column

    7 lines 35 – 52, Birrell).

Birrell does not disclose the shortcuts explicitly as claimed.

However, Kephart teaches the shortcuts to message or folder in paragraphs 43

and 48, Kephart.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing at

the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of cited references because

both inventions are directed towards organizing electronic documents (electronic

messages) and furthermore, the shortcuts being used and clearly defined in the

Kephart's method enhances the usability for a user (paragraphs 22 – 24, Kephart).

12.   Claim 33 is rejected under the same rationale as claim 32. The citations for their

limitations are disclosed below.

With respect to claim 33,

Birrell as modified discloses a method according to claim 32 wherein the method

comprises storing the shortcuts as records in a database (column 7 lines 45 – 52,

Birrell).

With respect to claim 34,

Birrell discloses a method for automatically organizing electronic messages in a computer system, the method comprising:

- obtaining an electronic message having a plurality of properties (Figure 2 and column 2 lines 6 – 8, Birrell);

- automatically identifying a plurality of folders with which the electronic message is to be associated by applying rules to the properties of the electronic message (column 6 lines45 – 64, column 7 lines 35 – 52 and column 8 lines 36 – 45, Birrell); and,

- automatically generating a plurality of shortcuts to the message, each of the shortcuts comprising an element directly or indirectly identifying the message and an element directly or indirectly identifying one of the plurality of folders (column 7 lines 28 – 52, column 8 lines 36 – 45 and lines 53 – 65, Birrell);

- wherein the message is associated with one or more keywords and the method comprises automatically creating a shortcut to the message in a folder corresponding to at least one of the keywords (column 7 lines 35 – 52, Birrell).

Birrell does not disclose the shortcuts explicitly as claimed.

However, Kephart teaches the shortcuts to message or folder in paragraphs 43 and 48, Kephart.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of cited references because both inventions are directed towards organizing electronic documents (electronic

messages) and furthermore, the shortcuts being used and clearly defined in the

Kephart's method enhances the usability for a user (paragraphs 22 – 24, Kephart).

13.   Claims 35 – 37 are rejected under the same rationale as claim 34. The citations

for their limitations are disclosed below.

With respect to claim 35,

Birrell as modified discloses a method according to claim 34 wherein the

message is associated with a plurality of keywords and the method comprises

automatically creating a shortcut to the message in a folder corresponding to each of

the plurality of keywords (paragraphs 48 – 49, Kephart).

With respect to claim 36,

Birrell as modified discloses a method according to claim 34 wherein the method

comprises storing the shortcuts as records in a database (column 7 lines 45 – 52,

Birrell).

With respect to claim 37,

Birrell as modified discloses a method according to claim 36 wherein the

message is associated with a plurality of keywords and the method comprises

automatically creating a shortcut to the message in a folder corresponding each of the

plurality of keywords (column 7 lines 45 – 52, Birrell).

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Navneet K. Ahluwalia whose telephone number is 571-272-5636.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alam T. Hosain can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Navneet
Navneet K. Ahluwalia
Examiner
Art Unit 2166

MOHAMMAD ALI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Dated: 06/13/2007